

Multiple Sclerosis Society, the United Way, the St. Vincent De Paul Society and the Backstoppers, a local organization that provides assistance to the families of fallen police officers and firefighters. Local 439 holds an annual fundraiser to benefit the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance Burn Camp for Kids and has raised over \$250,000 in eight years for this worthy cause.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the leadership and members of Steamfitters Local 439 as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary and to wish them continued success in the future.

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID LAWSTUEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Northeast Iowa Community College Dairy Science Professor David Lawstuen for being named the 2011 Iowa Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

The United States Professors of the Year program seeks out the most exceptional instructors in the country who make an impactful difference in their student's lives. Winners of this award must display an effective teaching method, as well as a demonstrably positive influence on his or her students. This program is the only nationwide program that recognizes the excellence of our nation's undergraduate professors and mentors. Entries for this esteemed program are reviewed by top U.S. educators and administrators to ensure that America's best professors are bestowed the honor.

Mr. Speaker, I consider it a great honor to represent a state with such a proud academic reputation. Professor Lawstuen, his wife Debbie, fellow colleagues, students, and parents of the NIACC community should be very proud of the academic climate they have produced. Professor Lawstuen's student's futures are a little brighter with his capable instruction and I wish him and his colleagues the best as they continue to provide a positive impact on the future leaders of our state and country. Thank you.

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES ROUNDTREE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James Roundtree for his service of faith and prayer in Brooklyn and dedication to lead others towards a righteous path.

Mr. Roundtree was born in Savannah, Georgia to Minister Levan and Rosabelle Roundtree. He is the third child of ten siblings and grew up in a very religiously Christian home. Growing up Mr. Roundtree attended Dalton Baptist Church in Sylvania, Georgia where he served on the Usher Board. He is a

man that takes his spirituality very seriously and looks to spread its power with those he encounters.

Mr. Roundtree relocated to Queens, New York in 1968 where he met and wed Alma Lee. Together they have one son and twin daughters. As a man of faith Mr. Roundtree conducts himself as a devoted husband, father, and grandfather.

Mr. Roundtree is a member of Antioch Baptist Church, located in Brooklyn, New York. At this church he served on the Usher Board and as Secretary of the Deacon Ministry for several years. Currently he is the treasurer for Sunday School.

After 35 years of service Mr. Roundtree retired from Gould Paper Company in 2004. He is now an employee of the Board of Education in New York City.

Throughout his life Mr. Roundtree has made considerable achievements: In 2006 he had confirmation of his ordination as Deacon; in 2010 he attained his Associate, Bachelor's and Master's Degree's in theology at North Carolina College of Theology; and in 2010 he also had his confirmation of his ordination as Minister.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. James Roundtree for his dedicated service to the church and his faith.

NATIONAL RIGHT-TO-CARRY RECIPROCITY ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 822) to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a national standard in accordance with which nonresidents of a State may carry concealed firearms in the State.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Chair, after a decade in which 10 to 12 thousand Americans were murdered with guns every single year, the House is considering legislation to protect criminals' ability to carry concealed weapons. This reckless legislation almost certainly would add to our gun homicide rate, which is already 19.5 times higher than other developed countries. This bill will likely add to the gun violence death toll, which totals over 1 million Americans since 1968.

H.R. 822, the National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act, could open the door for criminals or terrorists to use fraudulent concealed weapon permits from other states. As the Virginia State Police wrote in a letter that I will submit for the record, state police in one state frequently are unable to verify a concealed carry permit from another state. For those states where verification is possible, in many cases states have already established reciprocity. It would be reckless, however, to establish a uniform reciprocity standard under which our police cannot verify many concealed carry permits. Can we risk the possibility that a violent criminal or a terrorist could be pulled over yet be allowed to continue on their way because the police officer is unable to check the validity of a concealed carry permit? Regardless of our respective positions on concealed carry

laws, I would hope that we can at least legislate in a manner that preserves the ability of police to protect our communities from violent criminals.

Finally, it is ironic that the self-appointed defenders of states' rights would negate public safety laws across America through Congressional fiat. This bill effectively negates any concealed carry laws in states for out of state residents in a gross abuse of Congressional power which endangers our communities and first responders.

This destructive legislation only will add to the death toll that has already caused so much grief in communities like Northern Virginia. I urge my colleagues to vote against it.

MARKING VETERANS DAY IN LEONARDTOWN, MD

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on Veterans Day, I had the privilege of attending the annual parade honoring our veterans in Leonardtown and remembering the fallen service members from St. Mary's County, Maryland. It was a moving and meaningful ceremony, with many who have served our nation in uniform and their families attending. The parade in Leonardtown is the largest in the state, with a long tradition of honoring the service of Maryland veterans.

The program included four students from Leonardtown Elementary School, each of whom read a brief statement written to answer the question "What does Veterans Day mean to me?" Their words were a powerful affirmation that the ideals our service members have fought to protect continue to be passed on to the next generation, and that with those ideals we teach a love of country and respect for service. I would like to share their statements with my colleagues.

Katy Kindley wrote: "Veterans Day means to honor and love the ones who fought in all wars or to honor someone who didn't fight but served to help those in damaged places. Where do they go when they leave? What places will they visit? Will they ever come back? All armed forces that serve our country take only with them—hope. The hope that they won't let those in need be [needy], the hope to succeed in their job, or the hope to just come home to their families. Navy, Army, Air Force, U.S. Marines, or any other force that serves our country take hope and the will to serve with them.

"If you are the child of a veteran, hold your hand up. How do you feel when your mom or dad leave to go on travel? Do you feel scared they will never come back? Do you wonder if they will bring something back? All of your questions remain with you. I'm glad to say that I too have a brilliant and most valiant veteran to look up to—my dad. My dad does his best to serve in the Navy. A lot of times he leaves for a very long trip. One time, he left for seven months! I was very sad. But I was overjoyed to see him come home. Let's take a day to honor, love, and cherish the ones who served in our country. To all those veterans out there, I say: you rock!"

Liam Byers read his statement: "Can you imagine what life would be like without our